



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

March 13, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## STATUS REPORT ON FEASIBILITY AND NEED FOR ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY BUILDING AND ENERGY SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

On October 23, 2007 your Board directed the CEO in concert with the Countywide Energy and Environmental Policy Team, the Department of Public Health, and County Counsel to determine the feasibility and need for establishing a "Healthy Building and Energy Savings Certificate" or other benchmarking program throughout Los Angeles County that is modeled after the Energy Performance Certificates created by the European Union through its "Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings." This is a status report; we anticipate submitting a final report to you by May 1, 2008.

### ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES (EPCs)

The EPC program works by producing reports that evaluate a home's energy efficiency and recommending cost-effective ways to improve energy performance. These reports are prepared by qualified home inspectors and advise consumers on current average costs for heating, hot water and lighting in their homes. The reports also determine which energy efficiency measures could cut carbon emissions and improve a home's energy rating. Similar to EPCs, commercial building benchmarks are used to evaluate a buildings energy performance against other similar size and use commercial buildings. The final report will address the implementation of residential certification and commercial building benchmarks in existing buildings in California.

### INVESTIGATION TO DATE

The Policy Team has investigated the European Union program and found that EPC programs are now required in the United Kingdom (U.K.). The final report will provide more details about the EPC program in the U.K. The Team is also working with California's energy regulatory agencies, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) as they have adopted strategies to help the State meet its energy objectives. These strategies include development and implementation of existing residential and commercial buildings energy performance certifications or benchmarks.

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The CEC is working to implement these programs statewide in order to provide energy performance feedback on existing residential and commercial buildings. The programs are the Time-of-Use Information Disclosure Program and the Commercial Benchmark program. The status of both programs presents opportunities for the County to help promote, lead by example, conduct a regional pilot and/or assist in statewide implementation. Recommendations for County involvement in implementing these programs will be detailed in the final report.

The Policy Team has also investigated pilot programs for residential energy certifications in the cities of Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco. The final report will contain details of these programs as well as "lessons learned."

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has drafted a report on the health benefits of green buildings. DPH made a presentation to the Policy Team on January 30, 2008 on this subject. The report will be submitted as part of the final report.

Lastly, the State's strategies mentioned above also recognize specific roles for local governments in developing and implementing energy and environmental programs. In addition to local governments' roles in developing and enforcing codes, standards and ordinances; the CPUC envisions local governments playing a vital role in their local communities and regions. These roles include: investing more in energy efficiency and renewable power; providing community outreach and education programs; developing regional policies and implementation plans, and working with the State to develop a better understanding of state policies regarding building and zoning codes. The final report will include recommendations on how the County may play a lead role in developing a potential regional, local government sustainability office that may assist in implementing state policies in our region.

If you have any questions please contact me or contact Howard Choy at (323) 881-3939.

WTF:HWC

c:     Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
       County Counsel  
       Auditor-Controller  
       Internal Services Department  
       Regional Planning  
       Human Resources  
       Public Works